

A chip off the old block



SEAN PAUL DEVLIN
BLUES & CEEZIE!

A BIRMINGHAM CITY FANZINE

ISSUE

147

Premiership

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EDITORIAL

The fixture list gave us rather an unusual run of home games! Immediately after the Carling League Cup final we played and beat the winners, Middlesbrough. Then straight after stuffed the losers, Bolton. Then remarkably our next home game was against the team of the moment, the Lamanga gang bangers, Leicester City. Here was the perfect opportunity of consolidating our lofty position in the league by beating a team that had yet to win an away game this season, bottom of the league and looking doomed, and some of it's players in the nick, a few more out on bail. Yes, it just had to happen, we were the ones to get stuffed.

Our very next home game was against Leeds United, a team also deep in relegation trouble, a club that had escaped going broke by the skin of it's teeth coupled with giving it's creditors a serious fucking! So then, would we consolidate our lofty League position? Or would we suffer another humiliation? Thankfully it was the former.

We now take on the most successful team of modern times, a team who are also, and with good reason the most hated team of all time. Manure United. Will we beat em? Why not?

There's one thing a Blues-fan can ever be following the Blues, that is bored! we have our ups and downs, we have our good times and we have our bad times. We also have Karren Brady! Nuff said! Well for the moment anyway.

Thankfully David Sullivan has told Brucie to buy British! Well thank fuck for that! We've had too many fucking foreigners in recent years taking our club for a ride. Okay, so they aint all bad! And no doubt Brucie may again follow the foreign Prick road, lets hope he does his homework first on the character of the player, the last thing we need is another Dugarry! It took a long time for some fans to discover that he was a player that had passed his play by date, and was only here to put a few more quid into his retirement fund. Give me your old fashioned centre forward, like the Horse any-day. Fuck the fancy dans!

Okay then, it's almost time to apply for that passport
Beam Me Up Scottie
Dave Small.

zulufan@blueyounder.co.uk

GORDON'S VIEW!

SATURDAY MARCH 13 v LEICESTER HOME LOST 0-1

You know what? For some reason, in retrospect, you could have forecast this result. Leicester City in turmoil all week, not won for 13 games, bottom of the league etc, etc. Walkover for us? Remember Sunderland [twice] and Wimbledon, and Blackburn, and Blackpool.

You can get away with one or two players having an off day, you can't get away with it when everyone has a bad day.

We never got started, the midfield created nothing and the forwards wasted 3 or 4 great chances with woeful finishing.

However, I'm hopeful that it is a hiccup, and the defeat will be a massive wake up call and we can get the consistency and pattern of play that has rewarded us so well, back on track

It's one bad game and that doesn't make a bad side. It wasn't good, but hey, get our heads up and start again.

Brucie knows what was wrong, he will get it right again!

Man-of the Match: No one

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WHAT THE PAPERS SAY MARCH 28 SUNDAY MERCURY

Cheeky mascot is a little Villan

BY PAUL MALLEY

A FOOTBALL mascot is supposed to bring his or her team good luck.

So it was no surprise that Aston Villa crashed to a 2-0 home defeat eight days ago - because their mascot turned out to be a cheeky fan of the OPPOSITION.

Ten year-old Luke Dawson had led the Premiership team out against Blackburn after naming Juan Pablo Angel in the match programme as his favourite player.

Everything seemed to be going to plan as the youngster, decked out in a Villa kit, joined the Blackburn mascot, team captains and officials for photos in the centre circle before the kick-off.

But Villa chiefs had failed to hear the alarm bells ringing when they saw that the youngster's home address was listed as Lancashire.

The oversight came back to haunt them as the mascots jogged off the pitch towards the tunnel. Luke tore off his Villa shirt to reveal ... a BLACKBURN top.

HOME MASCOT

NAME: Luke Dawson
FROM: Lancashire
AGE: 10
HOBBIES: Football
and computer games
TOP VILLANS: Angel & Barry



MASCOT: the youngster featured in Villa's programme

Then, right in front of open-mouthed home supporters, he gave a cheery wave to the Blackburn fans.

One Blackburn supporter said: "I've never seen anything like it. When we saw the Villa mascot rip off his shirt to reveal a Rovers' top we all started cheering and laughing at the Villa fans."

"You can't really say that spurred us to victory, but it must have got Villa fans thinking it might not be their day."

An Aston Villa spokesman admitted that the ruse had left a sour taste in their mouths.

"We feel very let down by the whole thing," he said. "The little prank means that a proper Villa fan has been denied the chance to be a mascot. It is a misuse of what should be a privilege."

"Mascots are mainly provided via our Junior Villans scheme but we do occasionally have discretionary places that we offer to commercial clients, and this was the case against Blackburn."

"The child in question went through the normal administration procedures, including filling out the relevant forms."

"Although the address given was Lancashire, it didn't ring any alarm bells with us. We certainly didn't suspect he was purporting to be a Villa fan. We will redouble our efforts to make sure this does not happen again."

Everybody shit on the Villa

My my Tunny, didn't we get our knickers in a twist. However, since you took the trouble to write, for which I thank you, then it is only right and proper that you get a full explanation. So here goes:
Yes Tunny, I have developed an obsession/vendetta with stewards. BUT, if you had bothered to read my articles thoroughly you would have noted that my problem is with those BASTARDS who steward the away fans
And I find it very offensive when visiting fans [excluding Vile] get treated like shite

The Black Horse. Yes I have travelled to many away games with the regulars from that public house and I cannot recall one single instance of aggressive behaviour, as for meat pies dribbling from their mouths I can only apologise on their behalf, and point out that the majority of them are slobs, and in their defence say, they are Kosovan asylum seekers and or of Irish descent, both of whom are still to master the art of using a knife and fork.

Yes, I am aware that a lot of the stewards are supplied by outside agencies, and it is those of them that steward the away end that are the problem. And I would like to see not only stewards trained properly, but checked out and registered with the Old-Bill

I'm happy to hear there is no bother in the area you cover

My task as you put it. Well you may be surprised to learn that I have told David Sullivan of my disapproval of how away fans are treated on several occasions. However, fuck-all ever gets done. So, until the club put it's own house in order I will continue to open my very large mouth every time a football fan is abused by a piece of shit wearing a stewards coat.

You are right in wanting fuck-all to do with the Home Secretary's plan to let you fine fans. A wise decision, it would create more trouble than any steward could handle

Finally. My description of stewards. Brainless and scumbags describes those who work in the away end. The home stewards are okay, a bit thick, but okay.

zulufan@blueyounder.co.uk

Dear Zulu

Just a few comments regarding recent matches and comments in issues of the Zulu. Yes, we were awful against Sunderland but does anyone really think the lads were not trying? For the last eighteen months these guys have put their heads where most players wouldn't put their feet, they've run their balls off every match and over achieved like crazy. Yet now after one bad game some people are accusing them of not being bothered. Total crap. Everyone can have a bad day, and if several bad days coincide then it's a shame but that's life, but does anyone really think that any professional player, knowing how near a cup semi was would not try. Even mercenaries like glory and our lot have proved to be much more than that this season. Anyway we at least got it together against both the Carling cup finalists, so that might stop the moaning.

As for the Bolton game, are we a big club or a bunch of dreamers? We couldn't even sell out for a game that could send us equal fourth, and we say we are the biggest club in Brum. Pathetic! It's no wonder the Davids and Ralph won't rebuild the garden shed stand.

I bet there will be plenty of people who didn't go who will moan to Tom Ross if they can't get tickets for the Real Madrid and Juventus games next year, and on that point for those slagging off Dugarry, remember, we wouldn't have a chance of Europe this year if it hadn't been for him last season so lay off.

K. R. O. R.S. Kings Heath.

I thank you for your e mail Roy, and just like those fans who wrote for the Zulu expressing their honest opinions, then you are also fully entitled to yours. However you must remember, the game has always been about opinions, and more importantly those opinions vary from fan to fan. And the first impression I get from reading your letter Roy, is that you have spent too much time listening to the PRICK Tom Ross! You know? The CNUT with his glass always half full.

My personal opinion on both the Sunderland cup games is that the players, just like us fans, thought it was in the bag, and underestimated the pride of the opposition

Regarding Dugarry, while agreeing that he was once a great player, and also agreeing that he scored a few important goals for us last season, I always believed he was an expensive luxury. And unlike that PRICK Tom Ross, would never believe that it was Dugarry who ensured our Premiership position.

zulufan@blueyounder.co.uk

At times Roy I am privy to some inside information. And it was after that terrible display by Dugarry at Villa Park that both Steve Bruce and David Gold issued statements that Dugarry was having a problem with a knee injury, and would be going to have an operation at the end of the season. BOLLOCKS! After the Villa game Dugarry did a runner back to Frog-land and while he was away, his agent, a representative from the PFA and the club were negotiating a pay off. In short Roy, your loyalty was misplaced. Regarding the rebuilding of the garden shed, then I fully agree with what you say, why should they rebuild when we cannot fill what we've already got. I look forward to hearing from you again Roy. Ed

Dear Zulu

I have followed the Blues now for over fifty years, and during that time I have only missed seven home games, five were due to illness, and the other two were to attend the weddings of both my daughters.

I have followed the club through all the bad times from my season ticket seat in the Main Stand, and never once gave a thought to calling it a day. But now, thanks to that COW Karren Brady I will not be going to St Andrews again! Because she, the COW has taken my seat off me, the seat I have sat in for over thirty years.

Let me put a few facts to you and your readers:

Three hundred season ticket holders in the Main Stand have been told that their seats are wanted to increase the executive area. And where we now pay £480 a season, the COW now wants £1,100 + vat. A total of £1,292.50p This means that for an extra £812 a season we could, if we go along with her money grabbing schemes, an upholstered seat, a free programme, and the exclusive use of the Executive bar, [refurbished] which in fact turns out to be the Trevor Francis Suite with a lick of paint. This also means that those now use the Suite will also be kicked out.

I have come to the painful conclusion that loyalty is simply a one way thing! The club have shown no loyalty to me, or for that matter any supporter of Birmingham City football club. Oh yes, the club are progressing nicely, and while they were doing that the club was only to glad of our custom, but now that we have a chance for qualifying for Europe, the COW sees the chance of taking us all to the cleaners.

I now I don't just speak for the majority of the three hundred, but also a lot of fans all around the ground who would say, I enjoyed following the Blues much more when we were struggling both for cash, and on the pitch.

Tired & Weary, and a FORMER season ticket holder.

The above was received by e mail, and as requested his name is being withheld.....At this moment in time I have my opinions, but will keep them to myself, however if any Bluenose has anything they would like to say, then you can write me at. The Zulu. PO Box 5454. Redditch B98 8QL. And, thanks to tuition from some schoolboys, you can e mail. Ed.

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"OH NO, IT'S RICHIE AND HIS DAMN OPINIONS AGAIN.

You know there are a certain group of people inside St Andrews that have caused us Bluenoses a fair amount of grief this season. It has been noted many times in this great fanzine of ours, but this week ive had an experience that has really pissed me off. These people are STEWARDS (you know an anagram of steward is WETARDS, just imagine your Jonathon Ross when your saying it, you'll get the jist). A couple of days ago I happened to meet one of these species and just like you'd expect he was a right jobsworth that thought he owned the ground and he just so happens to "know Karen really well" and "yeah me and the golds get on really well" all that kinda bull. Anyway he proceeded to ask if I was coming to todays game, I said no (of course I will be here but I didn't want that idiot coming over to talk to me, people might think im a steward groupie or something.) so get this he then tells me that he's "a head of the wetards" and that each game he sneaks in around 20 friends in exchange for a very competitive price. Now please dont think that im kicking up a fuss about nothing because here comes the part that really narked me, this pleb that wears the high and mighty yellow jacket, this "head of the wetards" has so far taken 42 back handers from Manure United fans. 42 opposition fans will now be standing around at the back of the Tilton with the instructions of "if your told to get to your seats just move to the next opening, and just keep doing this for the whole game". At the time of writing there are still 5 days left so god only knows how many there will be just roaming around. This puts us all at risk, the stupid wetards could well be the cause of an almighty riot if it wasn't for the fact that us bluenoses are peaceful, fun loving friends of the earth. So Mr "head of the wetards" why dont you take your little hand outs, grab your yellow jacket and Fuck Off down to Vile Park you'll fit in there a lot better.

KRO and remember... **RICHIE KNOWS!**

GORDON'S VIEW!

Saturday March 20 v Middlesbrough away, lost 5-3

In the words of the Zulu editor, Dave Small, Beam me up Scottie! What a game! Talk about crazy. I would have loved to have been a neutral at this game!

You know me, tell it how it is, we were the better side, we played good football and created the better chances.

Boro went 2 up to shit defending on our part, sorry Grainger fans, but he was so far off the pace, he aint the answer. The Forsse pulled one back and then fuck-me, that that ex-vile, Southgate, stabbed one home through 7 blues players in the 6 yard box.

Back we went and Morrison at last got a goal. 3-2. In between Schwarzer pulled off at least 4 wonder sales that he had no right to get to, then another attack from Boro brought a good goal from Maccaroni. 4-2 down at half time. The 2nd half brought total domination from us, Boro couldn't manage a shot. Forssell got a goal back, 4-3.

A pantomime fuck-up by Upson gifted them a goal at the death, 5-3 but should have been 7-2 to us. Work that lot out, because I can't.

Man-of-the-Match: ME. For changing a tyre in gale force winds, in the rain, on the M1 in the dark still in a shell shocked state of mind.

Oh, OK then, man-of-the-match Forssell

Note: All week before the Boro game I was thinking that I should be remembering something IFFY about the Riverside. And all week I couldn't remember. It struck me after the game. You can't get away. One road in, and one road out. In the car at 5pm and only half a mile away from the ground at 6 15! Nice stadium but the layout is shite. Fuck doing that every other week!

Too right Gordon, why do you think I chose that day to visit Barry Fry at Peterborough? Had a nice day out, won a few quid in the betting office before the game, and had a chat with man of the match Curtis Woodhouse after the game. Incidentally former Blues player Andy Legg had a good game, and on loan to Peterborough Tom Williams is doing well. Ed,

AWAY DAY BLUES

Before I commence let me first apologise to those Bluenoses who followed my directions the last time we visited Portsmouth and ended up in York.

Okay then, let me get it straight, we're going to Portsmouth. WHY? Don't you know it's full of fucking poofers? Please yourself then.

The first thing you do is to get yourself on the M40 and head South, stay on it until you come to the M3, then follow that Motorway until you reach the M27. Now then, pay attention, do not take the M275 turn off for Portsmouth town centre. But at the junction with the A2030 turn right towards Southsea/Portsmouth. Continue along the A2030 until eventually you will see the ground in front of you. There is a very large car park behind the stand, but don't get too excited it's for home fans only. You will have to find somewhere to park in one of the streets around the ground.

OK, you've made it, and no doubt your dying for a pint a pie and a piss! Well if you'd kept your fucking eyes open on the way in you would have noticed a pub "The Good Companions" where you can get a decent pint, some fair grub and the piss you are breaking your neck for. By the way they let kids in. There is also "The Devonshire" just two minutes from the ground and "The Harvester"

Pubs to avoid, so we are told are the Milton Arms, Shepherds Crook and the Newcome Arms. I wasn't told why we had to avoid them, so I can only assume they are GAY pubs!

For those of you are into culture and all that shit, then by arriving early you can visit Nelson's flagship HMS Victory. For the benefit of you ignorant bastards who know fuck all about Nelson, he was the bloke who copped a bullet from a frog, and was immortalised with these famous last words when about to kick the bucket "Kiss me Hardy" which was very fitting for a sailor, for in those days, sailors taking it up the arse wasn't just legal, it was demanded.

So welcome to Portsmouth, home of Hello Sailor, Knee benders and Sausage Jocky's. Yours in promoting goodwill among all fans. Dave Small